

request for administrative review submitted under this section. However, Customs will, upon a reasonable showing of business necessity, issue a written decision within 60 days of receipt of the request for administrative review. For purposes of this paragraph, the date of receipt of the request for administrative review shall be the date on which all information necessary to process the request, including any information provided after submission of the request in connection with a conference, is filed with Customs.

(b) *Judicial review.* Any person whose claims with regard to a request for administrative review of an advance ruling have been denied in whole or in part under this section may seek judicial review by filing a civil action in the United States Court of International Trade in accordance with 28 U.S.C. 2632 within 180 days after the date of mailing of notice of the denial.

Subpart J—Review and Appeal of Adverse Marking Decisions

§ 181.111 Applicability.

This subpart sets forth the circumstances and procedures under which exporters and producers of merchandise imported into the United States may obtain information about, and administrative and judicial review of, an adverse marking decision, as provided for in Article 510 of the NAFTA. This subpart does not apply to the review of advance rulings issued under Article 509 of the NAFTA (see subpart I of this part) or to the review of determinations that a good is not an originating good under General Note 12, HTSUS, and the appendix to this part (see part 174 of this chapter).

§ 181.112 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart, the following words and phrases have the meanings indicated:

(a) *Adverse marking decision* means a decision made by the port director which an exporter or producer of merchandise believes to be contrary to the provisions of Annex 311 of the NAFTA and which may be protested by the importer pursuant to § 514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514), and part 174 of this chapter. Notification of

an adverse marking decision is given to an importer in the form of a Customs Form 4647 (Notice to Mark and/or Notice to Redeliver) and/or by assessing marking duties on improperly marked merchandise. Examples of adverse marking decisions include determinations by the port director: that an imported article is not a good of a NAFTA country, as determined under the Marking Rules, and that it therefore cannot be marked “Canada” or “Mexico”; that a good of a NAFTA country is not marked in a manner which is sufficiently permanent; and that a good of a NAFTA country does not qualify for an exception from marking specified in Annex 311 of the NAFTA. Adverse marking decisions do not include: decisions issued in response to requests for advance rulings under subpart I of this part or for internal advice under part 177 of this chapter; decisions on protests under part 174 of this chapter; and determinations that an article does not qualify as an originating good under General Note 12, HTSUS, and the appendix to this part.

(b) An *exporter* of merchandise is an exporter located in Canada or Mexico who must maintain records in that country relating to the transaction to which the adverse marking decision relates. The records must be sufficient to enable Customs to evaluate the merits of the exporter’s claim(s) regarding the adverse marking decision.

(c) A *producer* of merchandise is a person who grows, mines, harvests, fishes, traps, hunts, manufactures, processes or assembles such merchandise in Canada or Mexico.

§ 181.113 Request for basis of adverse marking decision.

(a) *Request; form and filing.* The exporter or producer of the merchandise which is the subject of an adverse marking decision may request a statement concerning the basis for the decision by filing a typewritten request, in English, with the port director who issued the decision. The request should be on letterhead paper in the form of a letter and clearly designated as a “Request for Basis of Adverse Marking Decision” and shall be signed by the exporter, producer or his authorized

agent. The provisions of §174.3 of this chapter shall apply for purposes of signature by a person other than the principal.

(b) *Content.* The Request for Basis of Adverse Marking Decision letter shall set forth the following information:

(1) The name and address of the exporter or producer of the merchandise and the name and address of any authorized agent filing the request on behalf of such principal;

(2) A statement that the inquirer is the exporter or producer of the merchandise that was the subject of the adverse marking decision;

(3) In the case of a Canadian exporter or producer, the employer number assigned by Revenue Canada, Customs and Excise; in the case of a Mexican exporter or producer, the Federal taxpayer registry number (RFC); and the Customs identification number of an authorized agent filing the request on behalf of such principal;

(4) The number and date of each entry involved in the request;

(5) A specific description of the merchandise which is the subject of the adverse marking decision; and

(6) A complete statement of all relevant facts relating to the adverse marking decision and the transaction to which it relates, including the date of the decision.

§ 181.114 Customs response to request.

(a) *Time for response.* The port director will issue a written response to the requestor within 30 days of receipt of a request containing the information specified in §181.113 of this part. If the request is incomplete, such that the transaction in question cannot be identified, the port director will notify the requestor in writing within 30 days of receipt of the request regarding what information is needed.

(b) *Content.* The response by the port director shall include the following:

(1) A statement concerning the basis for the adverse marking decision;

(2) A copy of the relevant Customs Form 4647 (Notice to Mark and/or Notice to Redeliver), if one was issued to the importer and is available. If the basis for the adverse marking decision is indicated on the Customs Form 4647,

no statement under paragraph (b)(1) of this section is required;

(3) A statement as to whether the importer has filed a protest regarding the adverse marking decision and, if so, where the protest was filed and the protest number; and

(4) A statement concerning the exporter's or producer's right to either intervene in the importer's protest as provided in §181.115 of this part or file a petition as provided in §181.116 of this part.

§ 181.115 Intervention in importer's protest.

(a) *Conditional right to intervene.* An exporter or producer of merchandise does not have an independent right to protest an adverse marking decision. However, if an importer protests the adverse marking decision in accordance with section 514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514), and part 174 of this chapter, the exporter or producer of the merchandise which is the subject of the adverse marking decision may intervene in the importer's protest. Such intervention shall not affect any time limits applicable to the protest or delay action on the protest.

(b) *Form and filing of intervention.* In order to intervene in an importer's protest, as provided for in paragraph (a) of this section, the exporter or producer of the merchandise shall file, in triplicate, a typewritten statement of intervention, in English, with the port director with whom the protest was filed. The statement should be on letterhead paper in the form of a letter and should be clearly designated "NAFTA Exporter or Producer Intervention in Protest". The statement shall be signed by the exporter, producer or his authorized agent. The provisions of §174.3 of this chapter shall apply for purposes of signature by a person other than the principal.

(c) *Content.* The NAFTA Exporter or Producer Intervention in Protest letter shall include the following:

(1) The name and address of the exporter or producer of the merchandise and the name and address of any authorized agent filing the request on behalf of such principal;